

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----097129 292218Z /73  
O 292129Z SEP 77 ZFF-4  
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SECTO 10005

NODIS

FOR S/S-S-15

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PGOV, KS, US  
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAK --  
TONGSUN PARK CASE

1. SUMMARY. DURING REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOREIGN MINISTER PAK'S MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 WITH SECRETARY VANCE, PAK WAS INFORMED OF U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT TO SEND JUSTICE OFFICIALS TO SEOUL TO DISCUSS WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA MINISTRY OF JUSTICE SATISFACTORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH TONGSUN PARK. IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS STEP DID NOT CHANGE STANDING U.S. POSITION THAT PARK SHOULD RETURN TO THE USA AND FACE COURT INDICTMENT. IT WAS DECIDED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED AND THAT IN THE MEAN-TIME QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS WOULD BE HANDLED WITH CIRCUM-SPECTION. SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING, THE TEXT OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS AGREED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAK, AD REFERENDUM TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL, WITH THE ANTICIPATION THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WOULD BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THE FORTHCOMING JUSTICE OFFICIAL DISCUS-SIONS AT 10:00 A.M. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30. IN VIEW OF EVIDENCE THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MATTER HAS ALREADY  
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LEAKED TO THE PRESS IN SEOUL, AMBASSADOR SNEIDER IS INSTRUCTED STRONGLY TO PROTEST THIS LACK OF COORDINATION AT A TIME WHEN OUR TWO MINISTERS WERE MEETING.  
END SUMMARY

1. AT BILATERAL MEETING IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 29  
BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA FOREIGN

MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN, SECRETARY OPENED DISCUSSION BY REFERRING TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PAK THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT OF MR. TONGSUN PARK, AND THE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN REPUBLIC OF KOREA AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SHIK AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB IN WHICH AMBASSADOR KIM HAD CONVEYED CERTAIN PROPOSALS. THE SECRETARY ASKED MR. HABIB TO INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE RESPONSE OF THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

2. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AND THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL BELL HAS APPROVED PROCEEDING TO HAVE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MINISTRY OF JUSTICE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH TONGSUN PARK. IN AGREEING TO DISCUSS SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS, HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES DID NOT FORECLOSE THE POSSIBILITY OF MR. PARK'S RETURN TO THE US AS WE HAVE REQUESTED.

3. ROK AMB. KIM IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED THE NECESSITY OF THIS LATTER STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT IF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE TO TALK TO TONGSUN PARK IN SEOUL IT WOULD NOT APPEAR NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT HIS RETURN TO THE USA. MR. BABIB EMPHASIZED THAT WE SIMPLY CANNOT EXCLUDE THE LATTER POSSIBILITY  
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AT THIS STAGE. THIS IS A LEGAL MATTER, AND IN INDICTMENT IS OUTSTANDING. IT MUST BE CLEAR THAT OUR EARLIER REQUEST FOR MR. PARK'S RETURN STILL STANDS. THE SECRETARY CLARIFIED THE SITUATION AS ONE IN WHICH OUR ORIGINAL POSITION REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF TUNGSUN PARK RETURNING TO THE USA STANDS, AND AT THE SAME TIME THE ROK POSITION THAT THEY CANNOT PERSUADE PARK TO RETURN AGAINST HIS WISHES ALSO STANDS. THESE POSITIONS HAVE NOT CHANGED. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE AGREED THAT OUR JUSTICE OFFICIALS WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE MODALITIES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH MR. PARK. IF THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL AND NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED BY JUSTICE OFFICERS, THEN WE ARE BACK TO SQUARE ONE AND OUR ORIGINAL POSITION REMAINS. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK AGREED THAT IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT BOTH SIDES RESERVE THEIR POSITIONS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT IF COOPERATIVE STEPS ON THIS PROBLEMS WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SEOUL, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT TO TALK TOO MUCH PUBLICLY AT THIS STAGE ABOUT INDICTMENTS AND THE RETURN OF TUNGSUN PARK. THE SECRETARY AGREED, BUT SAID THAT THESE ISSUES WILL INEVITABLY CONTINUE TO ARISE IN SOME CONTEXTS.

4. THE CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO THE SUBSTANCE AND TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AGREEMENT FOR JUSTICE OFFICIALS TO MEET IN SEOUL. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB NOTED THAT SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THE FACTS OF THE ROKG INVITATION AND THE USG ACCEPTANCE OF A MEETING IN SEOUL BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE JUSTICE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF COMMUNICATING WITH TONGSUN PARK. HE STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD MAKE NO FURTHER COMMENT. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO TRY TO CHARACTERIZE THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY AGREEMENT ON TERMS WHICH MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY BE REACHED, OR WHETHER OR NOT INTERVIEWS WITH TONGSUN PARK WOULD BE HELD. THIS SHOULD ALL REMAIN UNTIL AFTER THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN JUSTICE OFFICIALS.

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NODIS

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5. IT WAS THEN AGREED THAT IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES TO EITHER SIDE ABOUT THE TONGSUN PARK CASE FOLLOWING THE MEETING, ANSWERS WOULD BE LIMITED TO THE STATEMENT THAT: "WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTER AND WE EXPECT TO HAVE SOMETHING FURTHER TO SAY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS." (NOTE: AFTER THE MEETING REPORTERS QUESTIONED FONMIN PAK. HE ADHERED CAREFULLY TO ABOVE AGREED FORMULATION. WHEN PRESSED TO CHARACTERIZE WHAT KIND OF ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING, HE SIMPLY SAID: "I CANNOT CHARACTERIZE IT AT THIS TIME".)

6. SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING, WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT WITH FONMIN PAK ON FOLLOWING TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH US DEPT OF JUSTICE PLANS TO MAKE AT 10:00 AM WASHINGTON TIME FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30:

BEGIN QUOTE: UNITED STATES AND KOREAN OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WILL GO TO SEOUL AND MEET WITH KOREAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SATISFACTORY TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH MR. PARK TONG-SUN. UNQUOTE.

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FOREIGN MINISTER HAS APPROVED THIS TEXT AD REFERENDUM TO SEOUL AND HAS PROMISED TO INFORM US OF FINAL ROKG APPROVAL EARLY FRIDAY MORNING. WE WILL CONFIRM BY NIACT IMMEDIATE EARLY FRIDAY WHETHER ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE AT 1000 AS NOW SCHEDULED.

COMMENT: WE HAVE JUST SEEN SEOUL 8294 SUBSEQUENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. THIS INDICATES THAT THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN LEAKS TO THE PRESS IN SEOUL REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF OUR AGREEMENT. THIS EVIDENTLY PRECEDED OUR MEETING TODAY. IT IS MOST UNHELPFUL AND YOU SHOULD EXPRESS IN STRONGEST TERMS OUR DISAPPOINTMENT THAT LEAK OCCURRED FROM ROKG JUST AT TIME FONMIN PAK WAS ASKING THAT WE CAREFULLY COORDINATE TIMING OF SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT. UNDOUBTEDLY, US PRESS WILL PICK UP KOREAN STORY FROM SEOUL PRIOR TO UR PLANNED ANNOUNCEMENT HERE TOMORROW.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINS, KS, US, (PARK TONG-SUN)  
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